Welcome to the Halstead Grammar School Association website.

The Association has two aims:
To maintain the history and spirit of Halstead Grammar School
and to promote communication between all former staff and pupils.

As the site is developed we intend to allow space for members' articles and memories, all of which will contribute to a lasting legacy for Halstead Grammar School.

Although Halstead Grammar School was amalgamated and became part of the Ramsey School in 1975 we are proud that we still have a vibrant, growing Association.

If you are not already a member, just click on the 'How to Join' button for details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

How to Join

Membership is available to all former staff and pupils of Halstead Grammar School.

If you would like to join Halstead Grammar School Association please contact the Membership Secretary, Lynn Reeve e-mail reevelynn@hotmail.com
Please give your maiden name, married name and year you started at the school and your details will be added to our mailing list.

To join the Association annual subscriptions are £5 (as of 2017).
We hold two meetings a year, the AGM/Social Evening usually in May and alternating with either an Annual Dinner or Sunday Lunch later in the year.
Cheques should be made payable to Halstead Grammar School Old Girls' Association.
For further details and an address to which subscriptions should be sent please contact the Treasurer.

Data Protection Statement

This statement explains how the Halstead Grammar School Old Girls' Association ("HGSOGA" "the Association") handles and uses the personal information it collects about its members for processes relating to its operations and activities.

When changes are made to this statement, the updated version will be published on the Association's website.

The controller for your personal information is the committee of the Halstead Grammar School Old Girls' Association. The person responsible for data protection within the Association is the Membership Secretary who can be contacted at janiej@waitrose.com.

How we use your personal information

Your personal information is collected and processed for a number of purposes, including:

- Maintaining your personal details (e.g. your name and preferred contact details) to ensure effective communications with you.
- Managing the Association's alumni relations, including the list of members on this website
- Managing the Association's events
- Keeping financial records (e.g. payment of your membership fees).
- Managing complaints made to us.

Our normal legal basis for processing your personal information is that we believe it is in our legitimate interests to do so, in order for the Association to run effectively and efficiently, and as we only collect and use minimal information for the limited purposes listed here we do not consider that your own interests override ours. If we use your personal information outside of the purposes listed here, we will seek your consent to do so in advance.

We keep your personal information for as long as we need it, and usually for five years after your membership ceases unless you advise us otherwise.

How we share your personal information

Personal information is not normally shared outside of the Association and its members except where it is shared with our Web manager and the website hosting company and then only where there is a specific need. Minimal information about you is published on the list of members on the Association's website, but only after your permission is given for it to be included.

Only under special circumstances (e.g. relating to tax, crime or health and safety), is it a legal requirement (with or without your consent) to share your personal information with a government agency (such as the police or security services or other statutory authorities with investigatory powers). Where feasible and appropriate, the Association will notify you of its intention to share such information in advance.

Your rights

You have the right to access the personal information that is held about you. You also have the right to ask for any inaccurate personal information to be amended or for your personal information to be deleted or for processing of your data to be restricted. You may also request an electronic copy of the personal information you provided to the Association. Please note that all of these rights are qualified in various ways.

If you have a question of concerns about how your personal information is used, please contact the Association in the first instance using the contact details given above.

If you remain unhappy with the way your information is being handled, or with the response received from the Association, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the information Commissioner's Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF (https.//ico.org.uk)

Last updated 1 October 2018

Halstead Grammar School – A brief history

Halstead Grammar School for Girls opened as a fee paying school in 1909.

A small grammar school for boys had existed in the High Street in Halstead but this was replaced in 1897 by the Earls Colne Grammar School.

Local educationalists had recognised and supported the need for a girls' grammar school which eventually opened in 1909 at the Colchester Road site.

The new girls' grammar school was built by a company from Cambridge for an estimated cost of £698. It was funded by Halstead Educational Charities that had formed a special trust to finance the school.

The school was intended to accommodate 100 pupils; an examination was held to award the 5 free places.

By 1924 the fees were £10.00 per annum.

The school remained as a fee paying school until the 1944 Education Act was passed when the school became free to girls who had passed the 11+ examination.

During WWII the school hosted evacuees; local pupils were taught in the morning and the evacuees in the afternoon.
The early 1960s saw expansion of the school to include the Science Block, dedicated dining room, kitchen, art and domestic science rooms being added at the end of that decade.

The girls' grammar school, one of the smallest in the UK, existed for approximately 66 years. In 1975 it was amalgamated with the Earls Colne Grammar School and Halstead Secondary Modern School to form the Ramsey School based in new premises in Colne Road in Halstead.

The main Halstead Grammar School building was used as a 6th Form Centre for the Ramsey School and later became known as Priory Hall.

With the expansion of the facilities at the Ramsey School the Colchester Road site became redundant and after several feasibility studies by Essex County Council who owned the site it was eventually declared surplus to requirements and sold for development.

The above historical information has been taken from a publication entitled 'The Halstead Grammar School for Girls' written and edited by Anne Goodall and Cleone Branwhite. We are indebted to them for their extensive research into all aspects of the history of the school, its founder and teaching staff.

Halstead Grammar School - The Badge and Motto

The Badge

To understand the badge fully we need to go back to the 16th century when the original Halstead Grammar School was founded by Dame Mary Ramsey. The elements which make up the design are taken from the coats of arms of Dame Mary and her husband, Sir Thomas Ramsey.
The three silver rams' heads represent Thomas Ramsey and it may be that the five black and white ermine tails in the chevron were related to his status within the City of London but there is no hard evidence to support that belief.

Dame Mary was the daughter of William Dale a Bristol Merchant. The Dale family is represented by three white storks and three rounds of bread (torteaux) in the chevron. Research has so far failed to discover the reason for the storks and loaves of bread.

The School Colours and house names

The colours and house names were presumably chosen to reflect the colours in the badge, blue, white and gold.

The School Motto "Get Wisdom Forget It Not"

The origins of the school motto are not clear but it may have come from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 4 Verse 5
"Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them"

Our thanks to Majorie Watts for providing this information.

The Headmistresses

In its 66 year history the school had only four headmistresses:

Miss Amy Brooks	**1909 - 1922**
Miss Florence L Jackson	**1922 - 1945**
Miss Isabel Alexander	**1945 - 1972**
Mrs Rachel Hales	**1972 - 1975**

Miss Amy Brooks:
Miss Brooks was the first Headmistress and the success of the school seems to have resulted from her influence.

Miss Florence Jackson:
Miss Jackson became Headmistress in 1922 being the best of 106 candidates for the post. She had held several senior posts in schools as diverse as Luton Modern School, Redland High School, Bristol and the English High School in Montevideo.
During her period at the school greater emphasis was placed on academic achievement. Pupils were encouraged to take the School Certificate and to stay on after sixteen to take the Higher Certificate.
Miss Jackson also steered the school through the difficult war years when evacuees were also taught at the school.

Miss Isabel Alexander:
Under Miss Alexander's influence the school gradually began to change although there was still a great emphasis on academic achievement with more pupils going on to university.
Courtesy and manners were important and discipline was enforced.
Although the uniform rules were very strict there were some minor changes which allowed a measure of freedom for the older girls.

Mrs Rachel Hales:
Mrs Hales, the last Headmistress, had the unenviable task of overseeing the amalgamation of the school with Earls Colne Grammar and the Secondary Modern School

HOW THE ASSOCIATION WORKS

WHO'S WHO

President: Cleone Branwhite

Chairman: Jenny Mitchell

Vice-Chairman: Andee Evans

Secretary: *vacancy*

Membership Secretary: *Lynn Reeve*

Treasurer: *Pauline Page*

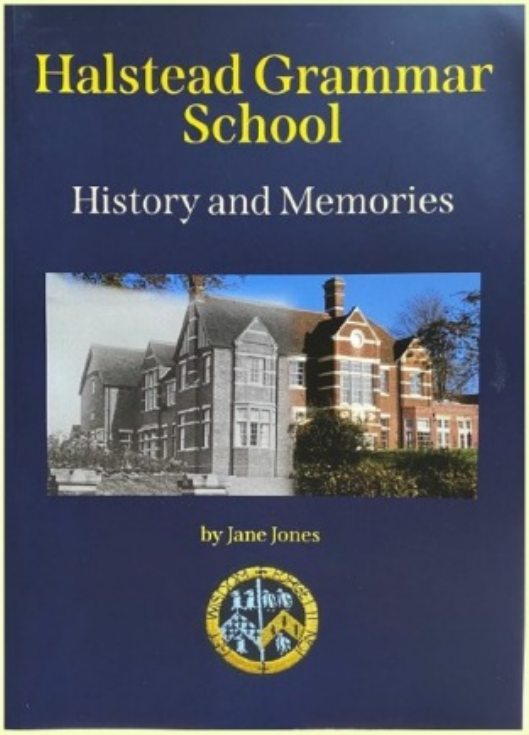
School Historian: *Jane Jones*

Committee:

Eileen Boyes, Andee Evans, Jane Jones, Jenny Mitchell, Pauline Page, Lynn Reeve. Leraine Swan
Jan Stringer, Julie Wilkinson, Carol Webber

New Publication

Halstead Grammar School
History and Memories



by Jane Jones

Published by Halstead Grammar School Old Girls' Association

Packed with anecdotes and memories from pupils and teachers and written by one of the girls who went to the School, this Book gives a fascinating insight into one of the smallest grammar schools in the country. It will delight not only 'Old Girls' but their relatives or anyone who had links to the School and is a must for anyone with an interest in Halstead or local or educational history.

Starting with the foundation of a charity school in the Middle Ages, the book explores developments which led to the establishment of the Girls' Grammar School in 1909. Using newspaper reports, teachers' biographies and school log books, the author chronicles life at the School for the next 76 years, moving through two world wars, suffragettes to feminism, liberty bodices to mini skirts, and culminating in the merger with other local schools to form, what is now, The Ramsey Academy. It covers the battle to save Priory Hall from demolition, and shows how the Old Girls' Association keeps the memory of the School alive, some 45 years after it closed.

Soft bound, A4, with 156 pages and many colour and black and white photos, the Book costs £12.99 plus £3.50 p&p (or free local delivery around Halstead/Braintree/Hedingham area). All proceeds are for the Old Girls' Association.

The Book is available from Halstead Grammar School Old Girls'Association c/o 148 Rayne Road, Braintree, CM7 2QS (Cheques made payable to Halstead Grammar School Old Girls' Association)

or email the author, janiej@waitrose.com and PayPal to same email (marked HGS Book)

HGS Surname	Surname now	First Name	Year
Ambrose	Farr	Sandra	1949
Baker	Pinkham	Janet	1961
Bartlett	Boyes	Eileen	1961
Boley	Ayotte	Suzanne	1965
Boyes	Stevens	Diana	1968
Bright	Percival	Linda	1968
Broad	Perry	Margaret	1964
Brooks	Capon	Susan	1965
Brown	Jones	Jane	1962
Brown	Thompson	Rosemary	1960
Bush	Stringer	Jan	1971
Cameron	Cant	Lorna	1959
Cameron	Wassall	Marion	
Carter	Lewis	Julie	1971
Carter	Cooper	Gillian	1951
Cawley	Cawley	Liz	1967
Challis	Ellis	Joan	1946
Challis	Warner	Linda	1961
Chapman	Puckey	Judith	1962
Church	Church	Christine	1963
Creasey	Reeve	Lynn	1961
Christison	Gleed	Linda	1965
David	David	Beverley	1962
Drury	Chaplin	Liz	1946
Drury	Redgewell	Sylvia	1951
Easterbrook	Innes	Julie	1971
Everett	Tebbutt	Carole	
Firmin	Edge	Denise	1962
Forrester	Mullane	Sandra	1958
Frost	Cromack	Anne	1958
Gardam	Day	Mellisa	1965
Gillmore	Smith	Annette	1966
Gordon	Mitchell	Jenny	1960
Hall	Hall	Elizabeth	1962
Hardy	Cawte-Franklin	Jane	
Hurry	Chambers	Joy	1964
Jarman	Cross	Valerie	1967
Jones	Jones	Daphne	
Kemp	Kemp	Alicia	1972
Legg	Bland	Chryselle	1960
Legg	Swan	Leraine	1963
Leslie	Evans	Andee	1965

HGS Surname	Surname now	First Name	Year
Lindeman	Page	Pauline	1963
Lock	Lock	Barbara	1950
Lofthouse	Jakes	Diane	1964
Long	Twinn	Jennifer	
Mullen	Price	Liz	1963
Nicel	Strudwick	Janet	1961
Pearce	Tanner	Christine	1962
Playle	Goodall	Anne	1950
Pollard	Pomerantz	Kathryn	1971
Poulter	McCarthy	Carole	1957
Radbourne	Duncombe	Val	1958
Ramsey	Gage	Faith	1963
Rawlings	Fuller	Janet	1957
Rawlings	Webber	Carol	1957
Ellinger	Rayner	Sarah	1963
Reynolds	Horsnell	Sally	1968
Richardson	Fisher	Shelagh	1961
Tanous	Tanous	Louise	1971
Tanous	Rushbrook	Madeleine	1973
Sansum	Kershaw	Pam	1961
Schueller	Palmer	Elaine	1964
Sephton	Coe	Jean	1952
Shelley	Aves	Julia	1966
Simmonds	Mullane	Jean	1957
Simmonds	Boddington	Marion	1960
Smith	Lee	Dora	1947
Spurgeon	Wilkinson	Julie	1960
Stearns	Hewitson	Julia	1968
Tanswell	Rayner	Betty	1944
Tarbin	Johnstone	Jean	1962
Thurston	Mills	Joy	1963
Tolfts	Colyer	Joanne	1972
Trew	Branwhite	Cleone	1943
Watson	Brennan	Bridget	1970
Webb	Gaudin	Margaret	
Webber	Dixon	Mary	1971
Wiffen	Male	Vivienne	1962
Willis	Whiteman	Maggie	??
Wright	Spencer	Liz	??
Wright	Barton	Joan	1961
Wright	Cairns	Hilary	1963
Wyatt	Taylor	Sally	1972